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Message Text

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12
ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-05 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 DRC-01 RSC-01

/025 W
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R 150811Z JAN 74
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5893
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
USINT CAIRO
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OREP
SUBJECT: VISITS OF CODELS ABOUREZK AND BINGHAM/RYAN

REF: A. STATE 237959; B. STATE 251106

SUMMARY: CODELS ABOUREZK AND BINGHAM/RYAN ARRIVED ALMOST SIMULTANEOUSLY AND WERE ABLE TO SEE KING FAISAL AND OTHER KEY OFFICIALS. NO SIGNIFICANT NEW SAG ATTITUDES ON OIL OR ON ME CONFLICT WERE NOTED BY EITHER CODEL DURING THEIR SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS. SENATOR ABOUREZK RECEIVED HEAVY RADIO AND TELEVISION TREATMENT. BOTH CODELS WERE ENTERTAINED INFORMALLY AT A LARGE PARTY IN THEIR HONOR BY THE HEAD OF SAUDI AIRLINES AND BOTH EXPRESSED AN INTENTION TO RETURN AT A LATER DATE. END SUMMARY

1. BOTH CODELS ABOUREZK AND BINGHAM/RYAN COMMENCED THEIR VISITS TO SAUDI ARABIA ON JANUARY 8. THE CODELS
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MADE SEPARATE CALLS ON HIS MAJESTY KING FAISAL JANUARY

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9. MINSTATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS OMAR SAQQAF WAS IN ATTENDANCE AT THESE AUDIENCES AND THE NEXT DAY HE MET SEPARATELY WITH SENATOR ABOUREZK FOR AN HOUR AND A HALF. SENATOR ABOUREZK MADE MOST OF HIS CALLS IN JIDDA ALONE, AT HIS REQUEST.

2. THE SENATOR ALSO CALLED ON SAUDI ARABIA MONETARY AGENCY GOVERNOR ANWAR ALI, CENTRAL PLANNING PRESIDENT HISHAM NAZER, AND MINISTER OF INTERIOR PRINCE FAHD. HE DISCUSSED THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM WITH THE KING'S ADVISOR AND BROTHER-IN-LAW KAMEL ADHAM AND ONE OF THE KING'S SONS, PRINCE TURKI BIN FAISAL. DURING THESE CALLS HE EMPHASIZED HIS INTEREST IN IMPROVING INFORMATION IN THE U.S. MEDIA ABOUT THE ARAB STATES AND THEIR ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE ME CONFLICT. HE WAS SURPRISED TO LEARN ABOUT THE SAG DESIRE THAT EXPANDING OIL PRODUCTION BE LINKED TO AND IMPLEMENTED BY ADVANCES IN SAUDI INDUSTRIALIZATION. HE PROBED CONCERNING THE POSSIBLE AVAILABILITY OF MORE CRUDE FOR THE MIDDLE WEST, BUT RECEIVED LITTLE OR NO ENCOURAGEMENT.

3. SENATOR ABOUREZK WAS INTERVIEWED BY THE SAUDI NEWS AGENCY UPON HIS ARRIVAL AND WAS QUOTED BY JIDDA RADIO AS HAVING SAID THAT HE FEARED A RESUMPTION OF THE CONFLICT, POSSIBLY WITHIN FOUR MONTHS, IF THE PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD STALL OR BE INCONCLUSIVE. HE WAS LATER INTERVIEWED BY JIDDA TELEVISION AND THE FULL INTERVIEW WAS BROADCAST JANUARY 1-2, AFTER HIS DEPARTURE. HE WAS CAREFUL IN THAT INTERVIEW NOT REPEAT NOT TO PREDICT A TIME FRAME FOR THE POSSIBLE RESUMPTION OF THE CONFLICT.

4. REPRESENTATIVES LEO RYAN (D) CALIFORNIA AND JONATHAN BINGHAM (D) NEW YORK AND MRS. BINGHAM ON 9 JANUARY CALLED UPON AMBASSADOR JAMES E. AKINS AND WERE BRIEFED BY THE AMBASSADOR AND THE EMBASSY STAFF. LATER IN THE MORNING THE REPRESENTATIVES CALLED UPON KING FAYSAL, PRINCE FAHD IBN 'ABD AL-AZIZ AL-SAUD, BROTHER OF THE KING AND MINISTER OF INTERIOR AND LATER IN THE DAY SAYYID OMAR SAQQAF, MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS. DISCUSSIONS
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TOUCHED UPON U.S. - SAUDI RELATIONS, THE ENERGY CRISIS, THE RECENT ARAB-ISRAELI CONFICT, AND THE NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA. IN THE EVENING, REPRESENTATIVES RYAN AND BINGHAM AND MRS. BINGHAM (TOGETHER WITH SENATOR ABOUREZK AND HIS PARTY OF SEVEN) ATTENDED A DINNER IN THEIR HONOR GIVEN BY SHAYKH KAMIL SINDI, CHAIRMAN OF SAUDIA AIRLINES, AND ATTENDED BY PROMINENT SAUDI AND AMERICAN GUESTS. THE REPRESENTATIVES AND MRS. BINGHAM DEPARTED 10 JANUARY

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FOR DHAHRAN.

COMMENT: THE TWO CODELS STRAINED THE ABILITY OF ROYAL PROTOCOL TO ACCOMMODATE SEPARATE INTERVIEWS ON THE SAME DAY SO SOON AFTER THE HAJ. THE VISIT OF THE FIRST ARAB-AMERICAN SENATOR WAS AN EVENT OF OBVIOUS INTEREST TO THE KINGDOM, AND HE RECEIVED FULL ROYAL GUEST TREATMENT. BOTH CODELS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN RETURNING AT A LATER DATE, BUT NEITHER OF THEM REPORTED ANY SIGNIFICANT NEW STATEMENTS OF POLICY HAVING BEEN MADE TO THEM BY SAG OFFICIALS.
AKINS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, POLICIES, CODELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974JIDDA00203
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740141/aaaabmss.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. STATE 237959; B. STATE 251106
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 JUN 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <26 JUN 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISITS OF CODELS ABOUREZK AND BINGHAM/RYAN
TAGS: OREP, PFOR, US, (ABOUREZK), (BINGHAM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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